



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/743,245	12/22/2003	Jose Enrique Maldonado Pacheco	20006	6968
23556	7590	10/10/2006		
KIMBERLY-CLARK WORLDWIDE, INC. 401 NORTH LAKE STREET NEENAH, WI 54956				
EXAMINER MUSSER, BARBARA J				
ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER		
1733				

DATE MAILED: 10/10/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/743,245

Applicant(s)

MALDONADO PACHECO ET AL.

Examiner

Barbara J. Musser

Art Unit

1733

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 27 July 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-26 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 21-26 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date See Continuation Sheet.
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

1. Claims 21-226 are withdrawn from further consideration pursuant to 37 CFR 1.142(b) as being drawn to a nonelected group, there being no allowable generic or linking claim. Election was made **without** traverse in the reply filed on 7/27/06.

Claim Objections

2. Claim 8 is objected to because of the following informalities: The claim has no period at the end. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 1-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Dobrin et al.(U.S. patent 6,383,431) in view of Weber et al.(U.S. Patent 5,143,679) and Flaum et al.(U.S. Patent 4,316,755).

Dobrin et al. discloses a method of forming a laminate by bonding together a stretchable web to a second web, the stretchable web being passed between a roll with grooves and a second roll with fins which fit within the grooves prior to bonding to the second web so as to stretch the first web while maintaining the position of the

stretchable web with respect to the first roll. This set of rolls stretches the first web along lines in the first web via the fins on the second roll. The stretched web is then coated with adhesive and joined to the second web.(Abstract; Figure 1; Col. 7, ll. 56-57; Col. 8, ll. 25-30; Col. 10, ll. 18-20; Col. 21, ll. 23-24, 48-50) The reference does not disclose forming successive nips between the first roll and multiple second rolls with fins. Weber et al. discloses stretching a laminate using multiple rolls with ribs which interact with a single roll with grooves. This use of multiple rolls reduces the rate at which the stretching of the laminate is carried out, reducing the strain on the web and causing less damage to the laminate than the use of a single roll pair.(Col. 17, ll. 57-Col. 18, ll. 16) It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to replace the single roll pair of first and second roll in Dobrin et al. with multiple roll pairs formed from separate second rolls interacting with the same first roll since this would reduce the strain on the first web as it is stretched and cause less damage to the web than the use of the single roll pair of Dobrin et al.(Col. 17, ll. 57-Col. 18, ll. 16)

Dobrin et al. discloses the adhesive is applied to the stretched web, but is silent as to the specifics of the adhesive applicator, only indicating that such methods are well known to those in the art.(Col. 21, ll. 23-26, 48-50) Flaum et al. discloses a device for applying adhesive to a corrugated web prior to bonding it to another web.(Figure 1) The device uses a metering slot to apply the adhesive to a roll which then applies it to the corrugated web.(Col. 4, ll. 54-56) It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use a slot applicator to apply the adhesive

Art Unit: 1733

to the corrugated web of Dobrin et al. since Dobrin et al. indicates well-known types of adhesive applicators can be used and since the adhesive applicator of Flaum et al. would assure that the glue is evenly applied to the glue roll and thus to the corrugated web.(Col. 2, ll. 8-11)

Regarding claim 2, Weber et al. discloses the fins of the successive second rolls enter the grooves of the first roll at different degrees providing a different amount of stretch at different nips.(Col. 17, ll. 57- Col. 18, ll. 16)

Regarding claims 4, 7, and 16, Dobrin et al. discloses the first web is a nonwoven with a basis weight of 10g/m^2 to 80g/m^2 .(Abstract; Col. 7, ll. 32-34)

Regarding claim 6, while Dobrin et al. does not disclose the specific number of teeth per inch, one in the art would appreciate that the number would fall within applicant's range since both Dobrin et al. and applicant are making laminates for the same purpose, i.e. use in a diaper and therefore would desire the same properties.

Regarding claims 8 and 17, Dobrin et al. discloses the second web is a polymeric film.(Abstract)

Regarding claims 9, 10, 18, and 19, Dobrin et al. discloses the polymeric film is extensible and breathable.(Col. 20, ll. 22-23, 53)

Regarding claims 11 and 20, since the polymeric film can be elastic, it could be stretched in multiple directions.(Abstract)

Regarding claim 12, Dobrin et al. discloses the second web can be stretched prior to bonding to the first web(Col. 19, ll. 39-41) but does not disclose stretching it in the machine direction. Stretching of polymeric films before joining to other webs is well-

known and conventional in the laminating arts as such thins the film, making it breathable. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to stretch the second web in the machine direction prior to bonding it to the first web since this is well-known and conventional in the laminating arts and since it is an obvious alternative to the stretching in the cross direction to create breathability taught by Dobrin et al.(Col. 20, ll. 28-31)

Regarding claim 13, Dobrin et al. discloses the first web can have corrugations.(Figure 9; Col. 10, ll. 17-21)

Regarding claims 13-15, when the corrugated first web is bonded to the second web, one in the art would appreciate that the adhesive would be applied to the tips of the corrugations so that adhesive would not be wasted.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Barbara J. Musser whose telephone number is (571) 272-1222. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday; alternate Fridays.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Richard Crispino can be reached on (571)-272-1226. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 1733

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.


BJM


RICHARD CRISPINO
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 1700

Continuation of Attachment(s) 3). Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08), Paper No(s)/Mail Date :5/21/04,1/13/05, 4/6/05, 5/26/06.